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Netanyahu, Arafat meet at Erez

JON IMMANUEL

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat met yesterday for the first time, opening a new chapter in the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians.

The two men shook hands across a negotiating table at the Erez checkpoint - Netanyahu rising first, both men smiling gingerly - as their five accompanying aides looked on stern-faced.

Netanyahu and Arafat met alone for 20 minutes, following a 45-minute session in which the two were joined by aides. Arafat discussed the Palestinians' tough living conditions, and Netanyahu pledged to raise the number of Palestinians working in Israel from 37,000 to at least 50,000 in the future, participants said. Other subjects raised included settlements and Hebron redeployment.

On the subject of security, Arafat suggested that he has his own reasons to ensure that Islamic militants do not commit terror attacks. "Security is not just for you but for us. This is a permanent policy."

At a press conference after the meeting, Netanyahu said, "Both parties reiterate their commitment to the interim agreement and their determination to carry out its implementation."

The word "implementation" was key to the Palestinians, who did not want to reopen the Hebron redeployment agreement to further discussion.

Controversy over the word, however, delayed the meeting. It does not appear in the so-called "non-paper," an unsigned working document which was the basis for yesterday's discussions. Dr. Ahmed Tibi, an adviser to Arafat, said the Israelis did not agree to put it in the paper and instead used the phrase "deal with," with reference to the agreements; but they did accede to a Palestinian request that Netanyahu use it in the press conference.

"This is more important. Everyone saw Netanyahu say it and nobody saw the paper, which in any case has no Israeli or Palestinian signature," Tibi said.

But Netanyahu immediately qualified his statement about implementation, saying, "However, I would like to emphasize that we have to take into account the needs and requirements of both sides on the basis of reciprocity and the assurance of the security and well-being of both Israelis and Palestinians alike."

When asked directly by a Palestinian journalist if he would redeploy in Hebron according to the Oslo 2 agreement, Netanyahu replied, "We are going to discuss this issue in the steering committee," sticking to the "non-paper" formulation.

The word "reciprocity" was also a key word, since it referred to the entire agreement and replaced the original phrase "mutual changes," which applied specifically to Hebron and seemed to justify deviating from the Oslo 2 agreement.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai will meet with Arafat on Sunday to tackle the Hebron issue and discuss Israel's six-month-old closure of the West Bank and Gaza, Netanyahu said in Tel Aviv after the summit.

"The next day, we will convene the [Israeli-Palestinian] steering committees for the first official meeting and we will begin the discussions," the prime minister said last night in Tel Aviv.

"We made it clear that with all our good intentions to carry out the agreement, a security underpinning must be added to allow the Jewish population in Hebron to live as normal and safe a life as possible," Netanyahu added.

The Netanyahu-Arafat meeting was only a first step in the new Likud-PLO relationship, and Netanyahu pointedly did not shake hands with Arafat after the press conference.



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and PA Chairman Yasser Arafat shake hands before yesterday's meeting at Erez checkpoint. (AP)

The meeting was the message

COMMENT DAVID MAKOVSKY

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's meeting with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is nothing short of historic. Beyond what was said, the meeting was the message.

It was significant for a few reasons. First, a meeting between Netanyahu and Arafat shows the Oslo Accords have reached a level of general acceptance that will spare the country much of the schism of the past and permit progress in the future.

In a broad sense, it illustrates that Israel has entered a post-ideological age, in which notions of a "Greater Israel" are being supplanted by an understanding that the territories must be shared with the Palestinians. The exact nature and scope of the compromise has not been determined, but there is a realization by the large majority of the population that one must be reached. Since the political spectrum here has often been defined by the Palestinian issue, that the political spectrum has shrunk is no small matter.

Second, while Netanyahu may face antagonism from a few ideologues in the Likud, such as Science Minister Ze'ev Begin, he is expected to win broad backing at tonight's Likud central committee meeting.

The Likud has always been divided between the ideologues and pragmatists. Last night, Netanyahu declared that, at least (Continued on Page 2)

Explosions, anti-aircraft fire heard in Baghdad last night

Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

LARGE explosions were heard in Baghdad yesterday evening, along with heavy anti-aircraft fire, witnesses said.

It was not immediately known what caused the explosions.

Reporters in their offices said they heard about a dozen large explosions. The ground was shaking in some areas, one correspondent said. The night sky was lit up with anti-aircraft fire, and air-raid warning sirens blared.

The United States launched 17 cruise missiles against what Washington called military targets in southern Iraq yesterday morning, after firing 27 cruise missiles on Tuesday.

Underlining Saddam Hussein's defiance of an expanded no-fly zone, an Iraqi air defense battery beamed its radar at an American F-16 yesterday. The fighter retaliated with missile fire.

Defense officials said the Iraqi radar went silent after the missile was fired, but it was not immediately clear whether the radar site was destroyed.

Navy Cmdr. Bruce Williams said that the jet was illuminated by the radar in defiance of US warnings to Iraqi forces, and it fired a "Harm" missile designed to destroy such radar sites. The missile seeks out active radar signals and rides them to the source.

But despite Saddam's tough rhetoric, Iraq also flew about half of its southern-based MiGs to safety in central Iraq, hours before the new zone went into effect at noon, US officials said.

The newly expanded zone now takes the allied air patrols north to within 50 km. of Baghdad, and puts two Iraqi airfields and a major training facility under the daily surveillance of allied forces.

Meanwhile, pro-Saddam rallies were staged throughout Iraq, with crowds vowing support for him in his latest confrontation with the US and President Bill Clinton.

"Iraqi willpower will not be defeated by the tyrants, no matter how far they go in their hateful

sins, malice, and aggression," said an Iraqi military communique. "The criminal Clinton is riding for a fall into the abyss of vice."

Yesterday's cruise missile salvos killed one person and wounded seven, the communique said. Iraq said seven people were killed and 19 wounded in Tuesday's missile attacks.

Few details trickled from southern Iraq following the US missile attacks, with the area so far barred to Western or local news media.

Margaret Hassan, a representative of the US aid agency CARE in Baghdad, said her group sent 20 trucks laden with food to southern and northern Iraq on Tuesday.

She said several of the trucks already had returned to the capital from the south, after delivering their cargo of cheese, milk, and high-nutrition cookies for children and their mothers.

The returning truck drivers said they "delivered the food and came back with no problems," Hassan said.

The US barrage on southern Iraq came in response to the Iraqi assault over the weekend against Kurdish rebels in Irbil, the largest city in the northern Iraq's US-protected Kurdish enclave. Some 45,000 Iraqi soldiers and 300 tanks captured the city before withdrawing this week.

American officials said that Iraqi troops remain uncomfortably near Irbil.

US officials reported some movement of Iraqi troops in the north, but Air Force Gen. Joseph Ralston, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the movement wasn't enough to satisfy the Americans of an improved situation in the north.

"The fact is that Iraqi divisions are still in the vicinity," Ralston told. "They are certainly in a position to influence Irbil."

(Continued on Page 2)

Clinton: Strikes a success

WASHINGTON (AP) - Twin strikes by US cruise missiles against Iraqi military targets were a success and Saddam Hussein now "knows there is a price to be paid for stepping over the line," President Bill Clinton said yesterday.

"He is strategically worse off," Clinton said, in his first full assessment of American attacks against Saddam's air defense systems in southern Iraq.

Clinton said he was not overly concerned by two Iraqi challenges in the newly expanded "no-fly" zone in southern Iraq. "We will do whatever we have to do in the future to protect our pilots... I'm satisfied this mission has achieved the objectives we set out for it."

Despite friction with some allies over the US military action, he said the US coalition against Saddam has not been fractured. "I don't think it's dead," he said.

Clinton and Vice President Al Gore met with reporters in the Oval Office.

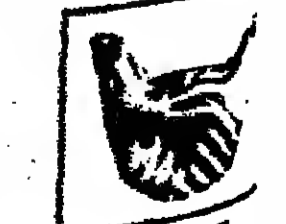
Assessing the US military mission, Clinton said, "I am pleased to report that... the missile strikes that were conducted over the last two days have been successful. The targets were either destroyed or sufficiently damaged so that we can say our mission has been achieved."

"That made it possible for us to implement the expanded no-fly zone today."

counters claims

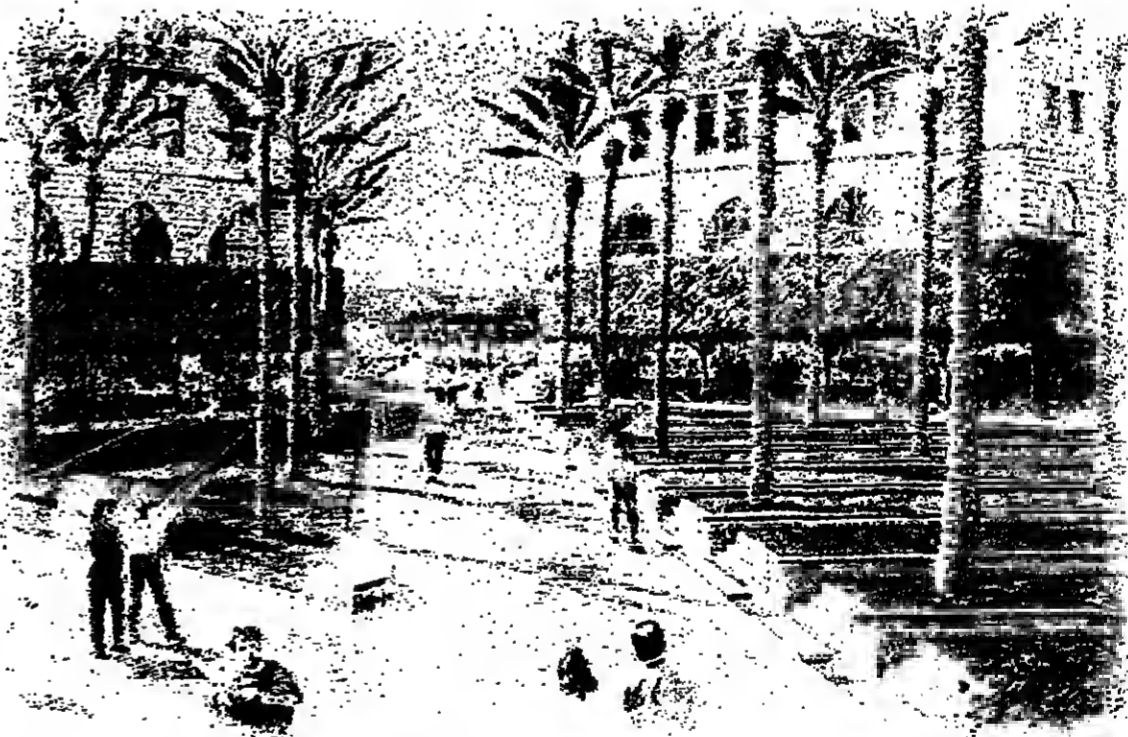
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Sharon, Begin slam PM for meeting Arafat

SARAH HONIG

YESTERDAY'S meeting between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat introduced a new element of suspense into this evening's Likud central committee session.

The summit drew harsh criticism from some elements in the coalition and the Likud, but Netanyahu is thought to enjoy the support of an overwhelming majority of the committee.

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon expressed terse opposition to the Netanyahu-Arafat meeting, and a longer and more stinging statement was issued by Science Minister Ze'ev Begin. MK Uzi Landau termed the meeting "an outstanding achievement for Arafat" and he promised to make his views heard in the

committee session.

Many ministers were said to back Netanyahu, but few said so outright. In the National Religious Party and Tsomet, there were reservations.

In a prepared statement, Begin asserted that the meeting with Arafat "contradicts the Likud platform and the government's guidelines. The government never deliberated the matter, nor did it adopt a decision in favor of such a meeting... What transpired is a severe defeat for which it will be hard to find a cure... The government is trapped in the Oslo tunnel and the next step is in Hebron."

He warned that the meeting constituted "capitulation to extortion, and giving in to blackmailers always only increases their demands."

Sharon curtly labelled the meeting "a mistake. Business with Arafat should not have been conducted at this level. I always regarded this as an error, and my position remains so today."

Landau, who heads the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, termed the meeting "a blow to Israel's interests and a hindrance to our future negotiating stance. Netanyahu never ruled out such a meeting, but only after Arafat met certain conditions... This has not taken place and thus the meeting with him constitutes an incursion for Arafat to continue breaching the accords."

But Landau noted that "there are significant differences between Netanyahu's approach and that of the Labor government. Their points of departure are radically different. Netanyahu considers the Oslo Accords a disaster, whose damage he must minimize."

Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy (NRP) argued that "such meetings must not be arranged in haste and under the duress of international pressure, though I realize that the meeting itself may well have been inevitable, because of the unhealthy legacy left us by the previous government. Yet care must be taken to make sure that, in contacts with Arafat, there is no deviation from the govern-

ment guidelines. I can only hope that Netanyahu told Arafat that the new government, while it will pursue peace, will do it in a different manner. I hope the prime minister expressed the sentiments of the public which put him in the office he now holds."

In the right of the coalition there was no equivocation. Miledet's MK Rehavam Ze'evi defined Arafat as "still very much the chief of a terror band. This is what he remains. Why Netanyahu, who was elected with the votes of the national camp, had to go and enhance the stature of this child-killer is beyond me."

Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav noted that "this government inherited a set of

facts and international agreements we could not disown. But unlike the Peres government, the Netanyahu government will not blithely lead to the creation of a Palestinian state and the division of Jerusalem... It isn't the meeting that counts, but what is said in it, and we will lead to a real and secure peace rather than a dangerous and bogus one."

Sources close to Netanyahu believe that the ideological issues which are likely to dominate the central committee proceedings will work in his favor, as they will turn attention away from the petty frustrations of minor party functionaries and from the ferment on the eve of internal party elections ahead of the convention scheduled for spring.

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Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat walks to his podium for the joint press conference with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu after the two held their first talks at the Erez checkpoint yesterday.

Settlement leaders denounce summit on moral grounds

Peace Now gives a cautious thumbs-up

SETTLEMENT leaders denounced the meeting between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, calling it "morally repugnant," while left-wing groups praised Netanyahu for the move.

"It was a moral disgrace when the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin shook the hand of Yasser Arafat," said Yechiel Leiter, spokesman for the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. "It is no less morally repugnant when Prime Minister Netanyahu does it."

"On the ideological level, this is a black day for all those who opposed Oslo for the past three years, including Mr. Netanyahu himself. It is indicative of a deepening ideological bankruptcy on the part of the government."

"On the political level, despite the fact that the prime minister continues to emphasize reciprocity, the meeting was held without any reciprocity from the

Peace Now side," he said.

"Warning lights are flashing, and the prime minister must realize he may soon find that he has created an opposition to his policies no less intense than the opposition was to the policies of the previous government," Leiter continued.

Aharon Domb, another council spokesman, was even blunter. "Netanyahu errs if he thinks he is guaranteed the support of the residents of Judea, Samaria and Gaza at any price," he said, according to Iim. "[We] are loyal to the idea of the Land of Israel, not to a particular person."

Deputy council chairman and Ma'aleh Adumim Mayor Benny Kashriel said the meeting was particularly worrying, given Netanyahu's failure to approve widespread building in the territories. Accompanied by extensive construction, it might have been possible to view the meet-

ing as a mere gesture - but without such activity, the meeting looks like a statement of policy, he said.

Peace Now, meanwhile, greeted the meeting with cautious approval, while Gush Shalom reacted warmly.

"Peace Now welcomes the fact that the prime minister has finally recognized reality," the group said in a press statement. "This is a great step for the Likud. But if it is not followed by results on the ground, such as a withdrawal from Hebron and fulfillment of the Oslo Accords, it will be a very small step for the peace process."

"Netanyahu is making a symbolic gesture whose meaning - whether he wants it or not - is recognition of the existence of the Palestinian people," Gush Shalom said. "Through Netanyahu, the other half of the Israeli people - the half that fiercely opposed the Oslo Accords - is taking its first hesitant step on the long and difficult road to peace."

Peres demands Netanyahu 'beg forgiveness' from Rabin

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and the Likud must beg forgiveness from late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin for things they said about him in the party's election propaganda, Labor Party Chairman Shimon Peres said yesterday, after the meeting between Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

"It's time for some courage and decency. Enough with cynicism. Even in politics one must have the courage to speak the truth. Netanyahu must stand up today and ask for forgiveness and admit he was wrong in the election campaign, and that it was necessary to meet Arafat and negotiate with him," Peres said.

Peres said the meeting between Netanyahu and Arafat is "a tremendous victory for our way [of thinking]. It is also a farewell to the Likud's principles of not recognizing the PLO. Their recog-

inition of the PLO is the most important message of this meeting. This recognition puts an end to the idea of 'Greater Israel,' because the meeting with Arafat was on the basis of the Oslo Accords, not the annexation of all parts of Eretz Yisrael."

Peres added that he still has many fears and doubts, "because the prime minister went to meet Arafat without having a plan for the future, an idea of the permanent settlement or a vision of the future of the Middle East."

He said he is upset "because the Likud lied in the election campaign. They portrayed me as a dangerous man."

Peres said that the meeting between Netanyahu and Arafat was obviously set up "because of Netanyahu's trip to Washington [next week] and constituted a surrender to pressures. Netanyahu did not plan the meeting, he was pressured into it."

Asked about the prospects of joining a national unity government, Peres said, "I will go further than that. We'll support the government even from without, as we did when Menachem Begin didn't have a majority in the Likud for the Camp David agreement. For me, the peace process, not membership in the government, is the important thing."

Labor MK Moshe Shahal said he regards Netanyahu's meeting with Arafat as the "greatest fraud and deception in our history. It [reveals] a deliberate, cynical deception by a politician who wanted to be prime minister."

"The Likud used Peres and Arafat as the central issue in its propaganda against Peres as prime minister. Today, Netanyahu himself begged to set up a meeting with Arafat and went to shake his hand. He knew [all along] he

would do it," he said.

"What worries me is that a man who is devoid of ideology is liable to give up everything. Labor had a path, it presented it to the public. It got a mandate from the public on the basis of that path in the previous elections."

"Netanyahu should have told the public the truth, that he had no alternative but to continue in Labor's path and meet Arafat," Shahal said. Before Netanyahu can be believed, Shahal said, "he must first tell the truth. He must go up to Rabin's grave and ask forgiveness, and ask for Peres's forgiveness publicly. Only then will we know that he has changed his ways. As long as he doesn't do that, the deception continues, as a senior Likud minister said today."

Labor MK Yossi Beilin said the meeting itself was extremely

desirable, but noted that it constitutes "Netanyahu's turning his back completely on the values he represented in his election campaign, which began and ended in the handshake with Arafat. The meeting today proves that there is no limit to [his] cynicism. It shows he is willing to adopt our policy, while all his arguments said there is a totally different path from our one. Now he is proving that we were right."

"All the secret talks and marathon negotiations, the Norwegian mediators and American and Egyptian intervention reminded me of the days before the Oslo Accords and are an unequivocal admission on the prime minister's part that there is no other path except ours," he said.

Beilin expressed "heavy fear that beyond the meeting itself

there will be no understanding and no progress, and its only purpose is to reach some formula which will enable Netanyahu to interpret the Hebron redeployment plan in a different way. In other words, it's an attempt at forming a bridge with words rather than actions."

Meretz leader MK Yossi Sarid said, "today Netanyahu's hand joined the hand of the late Yitzhak Rabin, of Peres and mine. Today's meeting will shatter for once and for all the Likud's refusal to recognize the PLO. Netanyahu arrived in Erez for the meeting freed of the Likud's ideology, which is passe, never and done with."

Sarid said the meeting was

important, but regretted Netanyahu's coming to it "as one who was forced to, under pressure from Egypt, Jordan, the United States, Europe and from within. I hope he discovered that the 'devil' isn't so bad, but instead is a partner with whom it is possible and necessary to make peace. And that Netanyahu will realize that it's not good to be dragged into political moves, and much better to initiate them."

Sarid expressed satisfaction that Meretz's principles and ideas of 25 years ago are being realized today, "and by those who were against us. But there is also some anger. [If this is what they're doing], why did they attack us so much, and spill our blood?"

PA donor conference opens; donors unfazed by hidden account

THE World Bank is unconcerned that the Palestinian Authority maintains a \$60 million account apart from its operating budget, a bank official said yesterday.

The existence of that account, first reported in yesterday's *Jerusalem Post*, will have little effect on the international donors who are to meet at the State Department today to discuss relieving the PA's budgetary problems, he said.

"If Rockefeller was president and there's a deficit here, does Rockefeller go to his own pocket and pay the deficit?" he asked.

"We are not the keepers of Arafat... This is not our concern. What we are concerned about is the money of the donors. There is no corruption [there]; we are sure about it."

"If he only has \$60m. in his account, I pity him," he added. "It's not very much, really. Nobody has legislation over Arafat, what he does with his money. All we have authority over is the money we give."

Today's meeting is part of a series that convenes about every six months in Washington and Paris. It will be opened by the US and chaired by Norway. Other participants include: Canada, the European Union, Saudi Arabia and Japan, who are the four other members of the ad-hoc liaison committee; Israel and the PA; and the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the UN, Jordan, Egypt and Tunisia, who have observer status.

Among the primary issues to be addressed in today's meeting are

narrowing the deficit in the PA's operating budget and generating employment through construction and industrialization in the territories.

No additional funds are being sought for the PA, but the US and World Bank are to ask donors to fulfill the commitments they made in October 1993 to assist in the development of Palestinian infrastructure.

Israel's delegation will include Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's diplomatic adviser Dore Gold, foreign ministry officials Oded Erni and Ilan Baruch, Treasury officials, and the embassy's deputy chief Shlomo Gur. The new ambassador to the

US, Binyamin Ben-Elissar, is not expected to attend, an Israeli official said.

The US delegation will be led by special Middle East peace coordinator Dennis Ross.

The World Bank official said both Israel and the Palestinians had an interest in arranging yesterday's summit at Erez between Netanyahu and PA Chairman Yasser Arafat before today's meeting because "they don't want the donors to be pissed off."

"They both want the aid to flow [and] don't want it to stop."

State Department spokesman Glyn Davies called the donor gathering part of a long-term process of Palestinian economic development and "not the be-all and end-all of the process."

Ben-Elissar was to present a

copy of his credentials to Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott last night. A date for officially presenting his credentials to President Bill Clinton has not yet been set.

Meanwhile, Clinton said he welcomes yesterday's meeting between Netanyahu and Arafat and looks forward to discussing the development when Netanyahu visits the White House on Monday.

"The meeting between the two leaders is a very important step in developing an Israeli-Palestinian partnership so essential to implementation of their agreements," Clinton said in a statement.

"Indeed, it reflects their continuing commitment to resolving their differences through negotiations and to securing a lasting peace."

(Continued from Page 1)

extreme than that of Begin and Shamir.

In one slip-up, Arafat referred to Netanyahu by his nickname, saying, "I believe that we can work with Mr. Bibi and his government to advance the peace of the brave," but this was corrected in the English translation.

The slip may have been a reflection of the informality of the meeting. Palestinian sources close to participants in the meeting reported that the atmosphere was much warmer than was apparent

from the press conference, and better even than the early meetings with Yitzhak Rabin.

They noted that Netanyahu, unlike Rabin, did not have a background as an "iron fist" defense minister or army chief of staff, and was best known in his role as a spokesman at the Madrid peace conference.

"He is a man we can do business with," one source said. The sources dismissed Netanyahu's public stoniness as a sop to his "Likud constituency."

The meeting came just in time

to establish a favorable setting for the international donors' conference in Washington today, which will tackle the PA's serious budget deficit.

The meeting should also provide a favorable atmosphere for lifting the closure, a step considered crucial in the PA's future financial stability. The figure of 70,000 Palestinian workers in Israel requested by Arafat would stem a further drop in the gross domestic product.

David Makovsky and Michael Yudelman contributed to this report.

But less important than where Netanyahu has been in the past, is where he is taking the peace process in the future. Yesterday's session, in the words of UN coordinator for the territories Terje Larsen, means Netanyahu is "taking over the good ship Oslo with Arafat."

Indeed, Netanyahu and Arafat are now in the same boat, and Netanyahu seems to be realizing that they will sink or swim together.

(Continued from Page 1)

for now, he is part of the pragmatic camp. He has already indicated to Begin that if he does not like it, he can leave the cabinet. This recognition, if only grudging acceptance, of Arafat and the PLO is a milestone in the history of the Likud.

Third, the meeting is also a milestone in Netanyahu's political odyssey. Earlier this year, Netanyahu vowed not to meet Arafat, but to boycott him the

way Israel boycotted Kurt Waldheim during his tenure as president of Austria. He has come a long way since.

There has been understandable criticism from the Labor Party, whose leaders couldn't help but recall how Netanyahu savaged Shimon Peres during the election campaign for holding hands with Arafat.

MESSAGE

But less important than where Netanyahu has been in the past, is where he is taking the peace process in the future. Yesterday's session, in the words of UN coordinator for the territories Terje Larsen, means Netanyahu is "taking over the good ship Oslo with Arafat."

Indeed, Netanyahu and Arafat are now in the same boat, and Netanyahu seems to be realizing that they will sink or swim together.

Palestinian Supreme Court president fired

Amin Abdel Salam, president of the Palestinian Supreme Court, yesterday received a letter of dismissal, sent at the instruction of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat. While no reason for the dismissal was given in the letter, Palestinian sources said Arafat was angry about a ruling the court issued a month ago, ordering him to release from prison 10 Bir Zeit University students arrested following the wave of suicide bombings in February and March. While the students have never been charged, they remain in prison. *Iim*

BAGHDAD

(Continued from Page 1)

The US was criticized by friends and enemies alike, accused of everything from playing the bully to acting mainly to assure Clinton's re-election.

Among traditional allies, Britain stalwartly supported Washington, but France declared the US offensive has "nothing to do" with Iraq's aggression in the 1991 Gulf war, in which French forces battled alongside the US.

In Russia the reaction sounded like old-fashioned Cold War rhetoric. Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov decried "forces that want to set up a one-sided world that would dictate terms to all others."

THE DISPUTATION

The BBC theatrical production of the famous disputation of Barcelona, held between Rabbi Moses ben Nahman and Pablo Christiani in the presence of King James I of Aragon in the year 1263, has been videotaped and will be shown tonight.

Thursday, September 5, at 8 p.m. Admission free.

A public debate hosted by Shmuel Golding will follow.

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Hebron's Jews reject Sharon's redeployment plan

Proposal offers PA more land, but lets Jewish quarter expand

EVELYN GORDON

NATIONAL Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon has prepared his own plan for redeployment in Hebron, but the Jewish community there flatly rejects it.

Sharon's plan would actually give more territory to the Palestinian Authority than is called for under the current agreement with the PA. Currently, some 16,000 Palestinians in Hebron are slated to remain under Israeli rule, while under Sharon's plan, this would be reduced to about 2,000.

In exchange, however, the plan calls for massive building and development of the Jewish settlement in Hebron, enabling some 3,000 additional people to move there. There are currently around 450 Jews in Hebron.

Sharon's plan would also allow the IDF to conduct patrols and maintain lookout posts on sites overlooking the Jewish part of the city, even though these areas will be officially controlled by the PA. The IDF would also have the right to enter any part of Hebron in pursuit of terrorists or to prevent a terror attack. These are all rights the IDF would not have under the existing agreement.

Finally, the plan calls for a wall separating Jewish and Arab Hebron, and a new road connecting Kiryat Arba with the Jewish areas of the city.

The Jewish residents of Hebron vehemently rejected the plan.

"With all due respect to Sharon, this plan is a very serious mistake," said community spokesman Noam Arnon. "It would create a strangled Jewish ghetto, surrounded by enemies. And the army would not be able to protect the residents, because terrorists would control the high places."

Sharon's call for increased Jewish settlement in the city is no compensation, because there would be no room to expand, he added.

"It's impossible to grow if there is no space, and it's also impossible to grow if there is no security," he said.

Arnon stressed that the community is especially opposed to setting up a Jewish ghetto, which is what Sharon's plan to build a wall would do.

In the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, meanwhile, the reaction was mixed.

Deputy chairman and Ma'ale Adumim Mayor Benay Kashtiel enthusiastically supported the plan, and said he would urge the entire council to adopt it.

"This plan is very good, very wise," he said. "It would enable us to maintain the

Jewish community in Hebron and retain control over the Machpela Cave ... and from the security perspective, it is also very good for the Jewish residents of Hebron, since the IDF would be able to patrol and act in Palestinian territory.

"The council ... should adopt this [plan], so that the Left and the Palestinians cannot call the settlers mere fanatics, who are out to torpedo the Oslo Accords. We must propose some plan ... because the council won't be taken seriously if it just says 'no, no, no' to everything."

However, council chairman Pinhas Wallerstein and secretary-general Uri Ariel were less enthusiastic.

"The point of contention would be that in principle, it's allowing security to be placed in the hands of the PA," said council spokesman Yehiel Leiter, after consulting with the two. "Our contention has been that ... military control should not be handed over to [the PA] at all. At most, there should be [Palestinian] policemen."

However, he added, Sharon's plans for expanding the Jewish community in Hebron are a positive point. The continued growth of this community is crucial, and making a change of this sort in the agreement would be much more than mere cosmetics, he said.



Peace Now activists demonstrate yesterday at the Gush Etzion junction for immediate redeployment from Hebron. The demonstrators, who had been making their way to Hebron, were stopped at the junction by the army. (Debbie Hill)

Mordechai says Arafat meeting was overdue

Urges PA to fight terror

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

THERE was no external pressure put on the prime minister to meet with Yasser Arafat, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said, adding that the meeting should have taken place sooner.

Mordechai also said the Palestinian Authority is doing a competent job of fighting terrorism and that Israel had no intention of forcing economic hardships on the Palestinians.

"The meeting between [Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu and Arafat was not forced. When the issues on which we have to reach an agreement are fundamental, I too will meet with any element, even the most extreme," Mordechai told military reporters.

"We should have spoken with the Palestinians sooner, without linking it to personal relations between leaders," Mordechai said. "It doesn't matter if we come to a genuine friendship. In the end we have to discuss issues and we have to find solutions. We need to meet with people

who are not naturally our friends."

The defense minister said that if the Palestinians were willing, it would be possible to reach solutions on outstanding matters within 10 weeks, if not days. This would open the way for discussions on the permanent arrangements, he said.

Mordechai said Israel did not want to starve the Palestinians and was in favor of easing the closure, provided security for Israelis could be maintained. He said the PA was headed in the "right direction" with its crackdown on Islamic extremists and Palestinian rejectionist groups.

"Since the fatal bombings in February and March, the PA has made great efforts to deal with terrorism, mainly that of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, but also from the PFLP, which are the three main bodies creating terror," Mordechai said. "The more they fight the phenomena of Islamic extremist terror, the better it will be for everyone."

Peretz rails at Meridor for delay in implementing pension agreement

FINANCE Minister Dan Meridor and Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz met yesterday to discuss the Histadrut's demand that a pension agreement signed between the sides be implemented immediately.

Meridor said the implementation of the agreement was critical to the economy, since it would enable employers to know the true costs of a worker's retirement. However, he said more time was needed to prepare for the changeover. He said he would need until after the High Holy Days, and asked Peretz to give him this time.

In a statement issued by the Histadrut last night, Peretz said Meridor's decision not to implement the agreement on changing the pension calculations was "very grave." Meridor's position could lead to a most serious crisis for which the finance minister will have to accept sole responsibility, Peretz said.

Peretz plans to present the situation to a meeting of the union action committee on Sunday, but said he hoped Meridor would announce plans to implement the agreement before then.

Peretz rejected what he called an attempt by Meridor to link current Histadrut-Treasury negotiations to the signed agreement. (Iim)

High Court clears way for Beduin eviction

EVELYN GORDON

THE last legal barrier to evicting the Jahalin Beduin tribe from land near Ma'aleh Adumim was removed yesterday, when the High Court of Justice rejected a petition against the alternate site the army is offering the tribe.

The Jahalin have illegally occupied the site near Ma'aleh Adumim for years, and in May, the court upheld the army's right to evict the tribe.

Last week - a few days before the eviction was to take place - the tribe filed another petition, however, charging that the alternate site offered by the army is in Area B, where the Palestinian Authority has civilian control. The army has no right to transfer anyone from Area C, which is under full Israeli control, to Area B, without the PA's consent, the petition argued.

In response, the state said that while the alternate site had at one time been in Area B, a series of amendments to the Oslo Accord maps agreed upon by Israel and the PA in January

resulted in the site being transferred to Area C.

At a hearing yesterday, attorney Linda Brayer, representing the Jahalin, therefore tried to argue that the January agreement was invalid. There was no date on the agreement, just a month, she said; it was signed by low-level officials from both sides rather than by then-prime minister Shimon Peres and PA Chairman Yasser Arafat; there were no witnesses; and it was not stamped with Israel's official seal.

However, Justices Aharon Barak, Theodor Orr and Dorit Beinisch rejected these arguments. "We are satisfied that the alternate site is in Area C," they wrote. "We are also satisfied that the [January] agreement is binding, and is not a mere draft."

Furthermore, they noted, the High Court recently ruled that the army is the sole arbiter of whether a piece of land is in Area C or not, so there was in any case no justification for the petition.

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Kremlin praises Lebed's rival

PHILIPPA FLETCHER
MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Boris Yeltsin, keeping eerily quiet on Alexander Lebed's Chechnya peace deal, put his ambitious envoy firmly in his place yesterday by heaping praise on the man Lebed has said he cannot work with.

Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov got an award and a warm congratulatory letter for his 50th birthday yesterday, written in the flowery style of communist times.

"I view your professional and personal qualities with great respect," said the letter, which followed the award of a medal, "for services to the fatherland," on Tuesday.

Lebed, who declared triumphantly that he had ended the 21-month-old Chechen conflict on Saturday, called on Yeltsin last month to choose between him and Kulikov, who he blamed for the fact the conflict had dragged on for so long.

Yeltsin said nothing at the time but the latest message from the Kremlin makes clear that call was out of line.

It also underlines the power play at the top of Russian politics surrounding the Chechnya deal, which has halted the fighting that cost tens of thousands of lives but has yet to be turned into a lasting peace.

Lebed's high-profile peace mission not only involves a humiliating withdrawal of troops from Chechnya, where the rebels are already showing signs of taking over, but also presents a danger that he will overshadow other top Russian politicians.

Even Yeltsin, whose decision to send troops to Chechnya in December 1994 started the conflict, could feel threatened by his outspoken envoy, who has presented himself as the peacemaker.

The president, who raised eyebrows by dropping out of the public eye in June, shortly before the final round of the election in which he won a second term, has

greeted Lebed's peace deal with a deafening silence.

In the meantime Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has acted as go-between, briefing the president at his residence outside Moscow and then expressing reservations on the deal, indicating it gave too much away to Chechnya's rebels.

On Tuesday Chernomyrdin at last gave it a cautious thumbs up. "The agreements signed by Lebed cause some concern but on the whole we consider them right," he told a meeting of top North Caucasus officials.

"We should act within the framework of these agreements and keep to their thrust."

Analysts have speculated that Chernomyrdin, who would automatically step in if Yeltsin became seriously incapacitated and Lebed, who has not hidden his presidential ambitions, are jockeying for position in Yeltsin's absence.

Yeltsin's chief of staff Anatoly Chubais stepped into the ring.

"One cannot say entirely that Lebed destroyed Russia and signed a capitulation, but one also cannot say that he deserves the Nobel prize," Interfax news agency quoted him as saying.

Yeltsin's aides have been at pains to stress that the president's low profile is not a sign of failing health or a lack of control over policy.

But Yeltsin's office said once again yesterday that he was resting and unlikely to meet or talk to anyone by phone.

In the absence of his direct intervention, analysts said Kulikov, whose troops are still in Chechnya, is getting increasingly restive.

"Kulikov is not a big politician, he's a general. He wants to follow the orders of a politician," Sergei Markov of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace think-tank said. "Chubais and Chernomyrdin might try to use Kulikov." (Reuters)

Saudi Arabia quiet over US raids on Iraq

ANALYSIS
BARRY MAY

SAUDI Arabia, the United States' chief strategic ally in the Middle East, yesterday withheld public support for US missile attacks on Iraq.

Elsewhere in the Arab world the American raids drew wide criticism and outright condemnation. Only Kuwait, liberated from Iraqi occupation by a US-led international military coalition in the 1991 Gulf War, openly supported the attacks.

But Saudi Arabia, the main base for US forces in the Gulf since the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, maintained an official silence.

"The Saudis have been extremely quiet on this," a Western diplomat in Riyadh said by telephone. "They may well not want to respond if they can get away without making an official statement."

More than 12 hours after air and sea-launched US cruise missiles slammed into Iraqi air defense targets, Saudi state television reported Tuesday's attack as the 10th item in its main evening news bulletin without comment.

It quoted a CNN television report that said Saudi Arabia had not agreed to the idea that the US operation be launched from its soil.

Any Saudi support for the United States was likely to be in private, the Riyadh diplomat said.

"We suspect they do support the American action as long as it doesn't involve them in any shape or form."

"The idea of launching the attacks from here or involving coalition assets based here was just simply too much to be negotiated within the time available," the diplomat said.

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, wealthiest arms customer and the dominant military power in the Arabian peninsula,



An Iraqi child looks at damage caused by a cruise missile attack on Baghdad yesterday.

served as the launch pad for the coalition against Iraq in 1991 when up to half a million American troops were stationed in the kingdom.

The US presence caused resentment among some Saudis critical of the royal family's pro-Western tilt and growing American influence in the cradle of Islam.

Two bombs targeted at the US military killed 24 Americans and two Indians within the last year. Saudi Arabia remains highly

sensitive to any publicity about the American presence in the kingdom, where families of some of the 5,000 US armed forces stationed there were ordered to leave recently because of threats of more attacks.

US President Bill Clinton telephoned King Fahd and other Arab leaders on Sunday to muster backing for a strike against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Two senior American officials had earlier visited Riyadh and

other Arab capitals seeking support for retaliation against Saddam's assaults on Kurds in northern Iraq.

In Jordan, the officials - Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman General John Shalikashvili and State Department Middle East specialist Robert Pelletreau - met King Hussein and were told Jordan would not allow its territory to be used for any action against its eastern neighbor.

Yesterday's attack provoked condemnation of the United States in language seldom seen in Gulf Arab newspapers to describe the region's main defender. Dubai-based Gulf News said Clinton's action had violated the territorial integrity of a sovereign Arab country. "Arabs must draw a lesson from what has happened and take warning against over-dependence on the US, especially when its leaders show no respect for principles," it said. (Reuters)

Britain, Ireland discuss N. Ireland

DUBLIN (Reuters) - British and Irish government ministers meet today to breathe new life into Northern Ireland peace talks whose credibility is threatened by blood feuds among Protestant "Loyalist" militants.

The two governments are expected to tell the Loyalists' political representatives that they face expulsion from the talks when they resume in Belfast on September 9 unless they reaffirm their commitment to non-violent politics.

Their departure would be a major setback for the talks process, already undermined by the absence of the IRA's political wing, Sinn Fein, because of the IRA's continued war against British rule of the province.

The IRA ended a 17-month truce in February with bomb attacks against targets in Britain and Germany and shows no sign of reinstating the cease-fire that helped launch the talks.

Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, and Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring are expected to warn the Loyalists' political representatives that they will be cast into the cold

like Sinn Fein unless they condemn the public feud.

The row erupted after the Combined Loyalist Military Command (CLMC), the umbrella group for Protestant extremists fighting to maintain British rule of the province, ordered wayward militant Billy Wright to leave Northern Ireland.

It said he faced "summary justice" - which Wright said meant death - after publicly opposing the CLMC's strategy of maintaining a 23-month-old truce to keep its political spokesmen at the peace talks.

Wright, who has been convicted for security offenses, defied an order to leave his native Portadown by last weekend and claims to have the support of broad sections of the Protestant majority.

The Progressive Unionist Party (PUP), a Loyalist group close to outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), has deplored the threat against Wright, a reputed UVF commander, but has failed publicly to condemn the warning against him.

"I do not believe that there is any room for ambiguity in regard to violence in the political process. There is no way that you can be half a democrat," Irish Prime Minister John Bruton said.

He said any expulsion of the PUP or a second Loyalist party, the Ulster Democratic Party (UDP), from the talks was a matter for other participants.

Swedish spy caught in St. Petersburg

MOSCOW (AP) - Russia expelled a high-ranking Swedish diplomat for espionage earlier this year after catching one of his couriers in St. Petersburg, Russian media reported yesterday.

The reports said the Swedish courier and his Russian contact were detained by counterintelligence agents on February 23.

They were arrested after the Swedish man paid the Russian \$2,000 for a matryoshka doll with film of 23 classified documents hidden inside the reports said.

The newspaper *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* said the operation took place in St. Petersburg military museum and was filmed by (Federal Security Service) agents.

It said counterintelligence agents moved in as soon as the exchange was made. Neither man resisted arrest, it said.

The *Interfax* news agency said Boris Kostenko, a spokesman for the Federal Security Service, the KGB's main successor agency, had confirmed the incident.

Kostenko said Russia later forced Sweden to recall a diplomat who was in charge of espionage operations in Russia and the rest of the former Soviet Union.

Both *Interfax* and *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* identified the Swedish man accused of being a courier as Hans Peter Nordstrom, 32. They said he was in Russia on a business visa.

According to the newspaper, Nordstrom said that a friend asked him to pick up the doll and he had no idea what was really going on.

It said he was deported without charges, because of "traditionally friendly relations between Russian and Sweden."

Neither report said what happened to the Russian contact.

The incident came a year after Sweden accused a Russian trade delegate of military espionage.

Complaining strenuously that Moscow continued spying on Sweden after the Cold War, Sweden expelled the Russian.

Bulgarian airline crew tricked hijacker to release passengers

OSLO (AP) - The crew of a Bulgarian airliner hijacked to Oslo by a Palestinian who claimed he had a bomb tricked the man into releasing all the passengers, the plane's captain said yesterday.

The airliner was hijacked Tuesday on a flight from Beirut, Lebanon, to Varna, Bulgaria. All 150 passengers were released in Varna before the plane left for Oslo, where the 22-year-old hijacker surrendered and asked for political asylum.

No one was injured, and police said no weapons or bombs were found aboard the plane. The chocolate box that allegedly held the bomb turned out to be empty.

While the Soviet-built Tupolev 154 jetliner was waiting for refueling in Bulgaria, the quick-thinking crew attempted a ruse.

"If the passengers remain on board, we told him, we will have to land for refueling. But that was a lie," captain Valter Kolev told reporters. "After about 25 minutes of discussion, he went along with it."

The hijacker surrendered less than an hour after the Hemus Air jet landed Tuesday night at Gardermoen, a charter airport north of Oslo. His only demands were to talk to a lawyer, and be allowed to seek asylum.

Uncertainty surrounded the hijacker's identity. Bulgarian officials had identified him as Nazir Abdullah, but Norwegian police have not confirmed the name.

National news media also used the names: Nezem Abdullah and Hazem Abdullah. His state appointed attorney,

Jan Schjotvet, told the Norwegian news agency NTB that the man feared for his life, but did not explain why. He said the hijacker wrapped an empty chocolate box in aluminum foil, and told the airliner crew it was a bomb.

"The man wanted asylum in Norway because he knows it's a peaceful country, not least because of the peace talks here between Israel and the PLO," Schjotvet said.

Justice Ministry officials said it was extremely unlikely that the hijacker would be granted asylum, and the national airliner pilots association demanded he be deported immediately.

The hijacker was jailed pending investigation and possible trial. If convicted in Norway, he could face up to 21 years in prison.

Denmark closes neo-Nazi radio station

COPENHAGEN (AP) - Danish officials have revoked the license of a neo-Nazi radio station in Copenhagen because they aired texts by Adolf Hitler, a newspaper said yesterday.

Last month, Radio Oasis, transmitting from the Danish neo-Nazi headquarters in the city suburb of Greve, transmitted excerpts of Adolf Hitler's *Mein Kampf*, a local official said.

"We believe the radio has broadcast terms of abuse and we therefore have withdrawn the license," Lars Klithof, a local broadcasting official, told the *Roskilde Tidende* daily.

When Danish neo-Nazis were given permission to go on the air in February, officials warned the license would be revoked if the station broadcast anything considered racist.

It gave the owners of Radio Oasis, Denmark's National Socialist Movement, four weeks to appeal the decision.

Machel says she won't marry Mandela

MAPUTO (Reuters) - It's not hard to understand why Nelson Mandela fell for Graca Machel.

The widow of Mozambique's late president Samora Machel, who led his country to liberation, exudes charm and warmth.

Coming up for her 51st birthday next month she retains much of the physical beauty of her youth.

She is fiercely intellectual and she is part of the African independence struggle, epitomized by the 78-year-old Mandela.

But Graca says she will not marry South Africa's hero-president, despite the warmth of her feelings.

In an interview this week in Maputo with a Reuters correspondent who has known her for more than 20 years, Graca said she speaks to Mandela by telephone

twice a day. "But I belong to Mozambique. I will always be the wife of Samora Machel. I like being called Mrs. Machel. It's the only way I can keep my husband alive."

President Machel was killed in a plane crash over South Africa near the Mozambican border in October 1986.

Graca described her relations with Mandela as affectionate. Asked if that meant amorous she replied in a whisper: "Yes."

"Was she in love with Nelson? This is very embarrassing," she said with a giggle that said, Yes but I'm not telling.

Long an open secret in government circles, the affair was acknowledged this week by a presidential spokesman after a weekend newspaper splashed the story of their romance.

Dole avoids criticizing Clinton

SALT LAKE CITY (Reuters) - Republican presidential nominee Bob Dole has carefully avoided criticizing President Bill Clinton's missile attacks on Iraq and voiced strong support for the US forces involved.

Speaking to US war veterans in the midst of a four-day campaign trip, Dole saved his venom for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein - whom he called a butcher and a tyrant - and adopted a bipartisan tone as he spoke about Clinton's foreign policy.

"In matters like this, all of us think not as Republicans or Democrats, but as Americans," Dole said. "As Americans, we wish our troops success and safety."

"They are freedom's heroes and we support them without hesitation or reservation," he added. Dole, who had criticized Clinton

for "weak leadership" on Monday, said he had the "privilege" of speaking to the president about Iraq on Tuesday and saved his fire for the Iraqi leader.

"If there is one clear lesson of our century it is this: when aggression is tolerated it multiplies," Dole said. "I trust this is the beginning of decisive action to limit the power and arrogance of Saddam Hussein."

"He (Saddam) has persecuted his people, he has defied the international community time and time again, and tested the resolve of America. And we must be decisive in confronting this threat and humbling this tyrant," Dole added.

"The bottom line is that Saddam Hussein is an outlaw, he's a tyrant, he's a butcher, and we cannot tolerate any further action by him in that part of the world," Dole said. About 6,000 former US service-

men, many of them elderly men with ribbons and medals pinned to their chests, gathered at the American Legion's annual convention to hear Dole speak.

Dole severely wounded in World War II, received a warm reception from the crowd, which interrupted his speech a number of times.

When the US launched its second attack yesterday, Dole issued a statement reiterating his support of the US troops.

Dole campaign spokesman Nelson Warfield said Dole assured Clinton in their five-minute telephone call he would not make any remarks on Iraq "designed to offend the president."

Warfield said Dole's earlier criticism of Clinton had been a "historical observation" on the performance of the administration and made before the first strike.

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Toddler-bully is driving me bonkers



DEAR RUTHIE,
My nephew is about 2 1/2 years old, and my daughter is 6 years younger.

Whenever they "play" together, my nephew goes out of his way to hit, kick, and trip up my daughter. Also, when she is playing with a toy, he always takes it away from her. If she picks up something else, he will want to play with that at that particular moment. Whenever his parents are around, they put a temporary stop to it. But is there any long-term solution?

New Parent
Somewhere in Israel
Dear Welcome to the Club.
The really long-term solution for this problem is the passage of time. Your nephew is at an age famous for his ability to turn adults into whimpering wimps, under the best of circumstances.

DEAR RUTHIE
RUTHIE BLUM

The fact that his parents put a stop to his bad behavior is a good sign. Many parents tend to shrug off their children's anti-social patterns, or blame other children for them. Here, at least, your daughter has some "back-up."

In the more immediate future, you can attempt to have the two cousins together only when a representative parent is present on both sides. This may be a problem if mutual babysitting has been an arrangement. Threatening your nephew with fewer "play" dates may not be effective, as his aggression towards his baby cousin may be caused - or at least heightened - by a plain old case of rivalry. If so, minimizing contact may be just what the "terrible" two-year-old has been contriving.

Dear Ruthie,
After working 12 hours a day for eight years to put my wife through a professional school, she informed me that she was leaving me for a man who had "better prospects" than I had.

Of course, if I had spent those eight years working to further my own career, rather than hers, my prospects would have been much better. My question: Are all women exploiting bitches, or only those I have had the misfortune to have met?

I might interest other men in a similar position, that my lawyer is suing for compensation for all the money I spent on this cruel investment.

Sucked Dry
Somewhere in Israel

Dear SD,
If all of the women you've had the "misfortune" to meet are "exploiting bitches," you'd do well to examine what it is about certain women which attracts you to them in the first place.

It is also possible that the arrangement you had with your wife - whereby you worked long hours to put her through school - was not based, originally, on exploitation, but on mutual love and respect. Obviously, this went sour along the way.

Now you have the option to turn this "cruel investment" into a crucial learning experience about yourself for future relations with other women. (And, if your law suit bears fruit, you'll even have some extra cash.)

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il



MEIR ADMON/96

A man after his own heart

Prof. Christiana Barnard is world famous for the transplants that healed others. But at the age of 73 he seems more interested in himself, writes Helena de Ber Todano from London



A more youthful Barnard, in 1972, lives life to the fullest. (Mike Goldberg)

NEARLY 30 years have passed since Prof. Christiana Barnard took the heart of 25-year-old road-accident victim Denise Darvall and placed it in the chest of 53-year-old Louis Washkansky. He was hailed as a cross between Frankenstein and God for his apparent power over this most mystical of human organs.

"The heart is associated with life, with death, with loving, even with the soul," says Barnard, now 73. "It really fascinated the world that you could take the heart out of somebody who was dead and put it in another person who could live."

Washkansky only lived for 18 days before succumbing to pneumonia, but the breakthrough had been made. The second transplant was more successful, and subsequent operations were to increase people's lifespans by years. One man survived 23 years.

In the immediate aftermath of that first transplant, hysteria gripped both the medical and lay world: here, it seemed, was someone who had found a way to abolish death. Barnard says that people still regard him with awe.

"Even today, when I stop at filling stations in South Africa, the attendant hangs his chest to indicate his heart and treats me as if I were God," he says.

The fact that he is also very clearly human delighted the press, and the "heartbreaker" puns fell thick and fast as he started going out with a string of famous women, including actress Gina Lollobrigida.

He is visiting London from Cape Town for a few days to promote his latest novel, *The Donor*, a bizarre medical thriller exploring what can happen if transplant surgery falls into evil hands.

There is something eerily familiar about the hero, Dr. Barnes: "His profile - film-star good looks, a charismatic public speaker, unmarried at 38, at the forefront of cardiac research, in demand by the glitterati and a seemingly endless supply of what an American reporter called 'classy broads' - made him a constant target [for the tabloids]."

Apart from the "unmarried at 38" bit (Barnard was 45 and married when he performed the first heart transplant), the glove fit - at least in Barnard's own estimation of himself. Barnard has never underestimated his own physical appearance.

"I say this with all humility, but the fact that I was a nice-looking guy helped," he says. "If the first transplant had been done by a short fat man with bald head and thick glasses, it wouldn't have had the same impact."

He has churned out a string of novels since he stopped practicing as a surgeon, and wishes he had thought of capitalizing on his name sooner.

"Hell, why not! The problem is that doctors are looked upon as superhuman beings," he says. "But we are n... different from lawyers or any other profession. We do not deserve a special respect, nor should we have to behave in a special way."

"There is all this crap about the medical profession - doctors can't do this and can't do that - and at the time I refused all offers. I didn't make money out of my fame and my popularity until I retired, and by then a lot of it had disappeared."

Still, he capitalized in other ways, revelling in the sudden glory: "It was like somebody who has been starving all his life and suddenly the table is full. You can't blame a man if he starts eating."

His wife, Louwtjie, to whom he had been married for 21 years, became increasingly unhappy and they divorced several years after the first transplant.

He is currently married to Karin, 40 years his junior, with whom he has a seven-year-old son, Arnie. He says the age difference did not disturb him until recently. Now he is getting a little fed up with people commenting on his beautiful "daughter." He is furious that he has to be so

says. "Then I was destroyed, it was a terrible blow to my ego, because I had always thought that I was the big lover-boy and that nobody could take my place."

He remains close to Barbara, however, and his two sons had a stable upbringing. The elder is now a businessman; the younger "a playboy living with Miss Switzerland."

His vanity does not extend to his medical achievements. He describes the innovation of heart transplants as little more than a technical breakthrough.

"I always say that the stupid doctors become surgeons - all we have to do is cut things out, put things in and sew things up," he says.

Nevertheless, Barnard has always been an exceptionally innovative surgeon. In 1960 he attracted international attention by transplanting a second heart onto a dog. But it was heart surgery, a field still in its infancy when Barnard started his career, that really drew him. The fact that he worked in South Africa was a considerable advantage.

"We didn't have the legal restraints that exist in America," he says. "I didn't even ask the hospital authorities if I could do that first transplant - I just told them after I had done it. Can you imagine that happening anywhere else in the world?"

Prof. Brian Pentecost, medical director of the British Heart Foundation, says that Barnard's greatest contribution to the transplant field was his courage.

"He had the spirit of a true pioneer," he says. "He was the first man with the courage to actually go ahead."

After the transplants, Barnard pioneered the technique of giving patients "piggy-back" second hearts to assist their own and also became the first surgeon to transplant an animal heart (a baboon's) into a human. He believes that increasing the use of animal organs in human beings is the best way forward for transplant science.

An advocate of euthanasia, he insists that doctors should only intervene if they can improve the quality of a patient's life.

"The goal of medicine is not to prolong life. In many instances doctors feel death is the enemy and they continue treatment way beyond the point where it is of any value to the patient," he says.

Though his arthritis ended his career as a surgeon, he is not bitter. He does not miss it at all, he says. Since then he has devoted himself to writing; his novels have been more successful than his autobiography, *The Second Life*, which chronicled his womanizing rather than his medical wizardry.

"It made the book unpopular - it was published in South Africa but no one in Britain or America wanted it. Yet if I hadn't mentioned the affairs, people would have said I was lying. I just wanted to show people that I was a very ordinary human being."

On a personal level, he has certainly proved his feet are of clay. But in the medical world, he will always be remembered under the title given to him by his first transplant patient: The Man with the Golden Hands.

(The Sunday Telegraph)

Islamic paraphernalia hits US store shelves

LOOKING for a tape of Islamic rap music? Or maybe toothpaste and soap declared "halal," permitted for use by Moslems because they contain no animal fat?

How about a video of Islamic cartoons, an Islamic road map to help you locate mosques throughout the US, an alarm clock to wake you with a tiny "Allahu Akbar"?

It's all available with much more Islamic paraphernalia - and a lot of Moslem pride - at a four-day convention which has finished in Columbus, Ohio, where thousands of Moslems gathered from all over the US and Canada. They took the opportunity not only to shop but to show their enthusiasm for their religion, discuss problems common to Moslem Americans and demonstrate that they're there to stay.

"We are American Moslems," said Jwaad Rahman, an organizer. "This is home and we plan to make a constructive contribution and bring Islam to [the US]."

"When you come here and you see everybody else in the same boat, it gives you a great source of pride and recharges your batteries and lets you realize that you're not on your own," Rahman, a development assistant for the organizing Islamic Society of North America, said.

The society's 33rd convention in the US, which took place Friday through Sunday, gives a snapshot of a Moslem community on the continent that Islamic leaders number at about six million. Immigrants who came originally for higher education founded the society. Many stayed, either for opportunities available in the US

or because of fear of persecution at home.

As they developed, the conventions grew from meager gatherings of a few hundred to those of recent years, drawing more than 10,000 Moslems a year.

One attraction of the convention is its bazaar, where vendors sell Islamic products that make the Moslem community less dependent on US markets for food, literature and other Islamic goods.

The bazaar evokes the souks of the Middle East and Asia. The alarm clocks' chants of "Allahu Akbar" mingle with recitations from the Koran coming from CD-ROMs. War cries emanate from an animated video, *The Boy and the King*, which relates a Koranic story about a boy's triumph over an infidel tyrant.

The thick smell of alcohol-free, oil-based musk perfume and spicy chicken fill the air as hawkers coax onlookers to buy their new products.

Abdul-Aziz Junejo is promoting the first magazine catering to Moslem women, *Sisters!* Unlike its American sister publications, this magazine features no provocatively dressed women on the cover, underwear advertisements or frank discussions about sex.

"American magazines are too superficial," sniffed Junejo, of Seattle. "They talk about irrelevant subjects that are too trivial."

Pointing to his magazine, which displays on its cover a drawing of a woman wearing scarves and holding bouquets of flowers, Junejo indicated the topics in the first issue of *Sisters!*: What should be in a Moslem marriage contract, facing cancer with faith, growing

garden roses.

"These are issues that give women self-esteem, build their character and make them full-fledged, productive members of this society," said Junejo.

At another stall, Khaled Shammut sold Islamic T-shirts. One set featured names of famous Moslem mathematicians, philosophers and historians. Another showed a Moslem village with domed roofs, mosques and a Koranic verse on top: "O you who believe! Seek help in patience and prayer."

"When you're in this country, you don't want to wear T-shirts that say Coca-Cola and AT&T all the time," said Shammut, of Columbus. "We want to offer something modern with Islamic tones."

He said the T-shirts, Islamic mousapads featuring the Islamic village design and mugs inscribed with verses from the Koran have been big sellers.

Amar el-Akkad and Waleed Sorbol stood behind a table festooned with red and blue balloons to promote Bob Dole's presidential candidacy through their own party, the Republican Moslems of Minnesota.

"The Republicans are very traditional and conservative," said el-Akkad, whose party is affiliated with the Republican Party of Minnesota.

Kais a-Kalby sat behind stacks of his book, *Prophet Muhammad, the Last Messenger in the Bible*, admiring the crowds.

"Tell me, who is prettier, scarved women or women who show their hair?" he asked with a smile. "A woman is like a jewel: You don't expose to thieves." (AP)

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ANCIENT SEAL discovered at Megiddo, decorated with LION OF JUDAH, issued during 8th century B.C.E.



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Please send me: SHEKEL DINAR LION SEAL MENORA JUDEAN COIN
Enclosed is my check payable to The Jerusalem Post for NIS 219 per item, or credit card details:
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Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Code: _____
Tel. (day): _____ ID No. _____
Signature: _____

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The Circulation Dept.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Board delays appointment of new El Al head

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE appointment of former IAF Brig-Gen. Yoel Feldschu as the next general manager of El Al was delayed by the airline's board of directors yesterday.

Board members said they did not know Feldschu - who since last year has been general manager of Champion Motors, importers of Volkswagen, Audi, and Seat - and wanted a chance to speak with him before approving his appointment. Accordingly, they invited him to

the September 16 board meeting and said his appointment would be approved at that time.

Feldschu will replace Raphael Harlev.

His appointment was opposed by El Al Board Chairman Joseph Chiechanover, who wanted Elbit CEO Emmanuel Gill.

However, he was the choice of Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

A-G okays breach of deadline in Africa-Israel deal

EVELYN GORDON

BANK Leumi may exceed the deadline for selling off its holdings in Africa-Israel. Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair ruled yesterday.

By law, all banks must reduce their stakes in non-banking companies to less than 25 percent by December 31.

However, Leumi wants to split the Migdal Insurance Company off from Africa-Israel and sell it separately. This will be a lengthy process and might not be completed by that date. Finance Minister Dan Meridor therefore asked Ben-Yair if he would approve giving the bank extra time.

Ben-Yair noted that both Meridor and Supervisor of Banks Ze'ev Abeles wholeheartedly approve the split, which is expected to significantly increase the bank's revenues from the sale.

Furthermore, most of the process, including the signing of the sale agreement, will have been completed by the deadline, he said. Therefore, assuming that the bank acts in good faith to complete the process as soon as possible, it is okay for it to miss the deadline, he concluded.

"The proposed course accords with the purpose of the law and realizes its aims, while significantly increasing the economic benefit that will accrue to the state and the Israeli economy," he explained.

Maman shares up 60% amid takeover rumors

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

SHARES of Maman Cargo Terminals and Holdings yesterday completed a 60-percent leap over two weeks at the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, amid rumors of a brewing takeover effort of the company.

Maman, the country's air-cargo monopoly, has annual sales in excess of \$50 million and 460 employees.

During the last few days Poalim Capital Markets, a member of the Bank Hapoalim Group, has tried to interest investors in the purchase of a large package of shares in Maman, with the intention of accumulating all institutional investors' shares in Maman and then tender

them out as a package for a commission, a capital-market source said. Poalim has not yet managed to

attract one investment consortium, nor has it managed to purchase shares from the institutional investors, added the source.

Capital-market sources expect El Al, Securitas, businessman Ted Arison, and Knafim-Arka, a member of the Koor Group, to all take part in the tender, assuming Poalim accumulates enough stock to go ahead with it.

Brokers said the accelerated demand for Maman shares is connected to forecasts that a proxy fight is about to develop in the company, which is jointly controlled by Securitas and El Al, through its subsidiary Teshet. The two companies have a 26-percent stake each in Maman.

Securitas' and El Al's joint control is in accordance with a voting agreement which is due to expire September 15.

Market players believe an investor who manages to purchase 20% of the company, and reach an agreement with either of its majority holders, would be able to control, or turn into a partner in the company.

Maman's remaining shares are held by institutional investors from the Bank Hapoalim and Bank Leumi groups, which together hold 25.9% of the company's shares.

Bank Hapoalim's provident funds control 11.7% of the shares, the bank's mutual funds 8.7% and Bank Leumi's provident funds 5.45%.



Visitors to the World PC Expo '96 crowd around the Taipei-based Tatung Co. booth at Makuhari Messe in Makuhari, east of Tokyo yesterday. A total of 451 computer makers, including 72 foreign companies, displayed the latest models in the largest personal computer show in Asia. (Reuters)

IMF: Egyptian inflation still high

CAIRO (Reuters) - An executive director of the International Monetary Fund said yesterday that Egyptian inflation was still high, but he doubted it would be easy for the government to bring it down much further.

Abdel Shakour Shaalan, who represents Egypt and other Arab countries on the IMF board, also said the Egyptian government should try in the long term to cut spending as a proportion of gross domestic product (GDP). "Inflation is still in my view quite high, but it has come down," he told an investment conference in Cairo.

Egyptian inflation has been rising throughout this year. Despite tight controls on money supply and a government deficit at 1.3 percent of GDP in the financial year 1995/6, it hit 8.3% in the year to the end

of July, the highest level since 9.7% at the end of August last year.

Asked to explain the upward trend, Shaalan said the last stages of inflation reduction were the hardest. "Inflation gets to be sticky in this range and economists don't know why this happens," he said. "Indonesia stuck at 10% when it has a budget surplus."

Ismail Hassan, governor of the Central Bank of Egypt, told the conference that M2 money supply grew 10.5% in the 1995/6 financial year, which ended on June 30, compared with 11.1% in the previous year.

The government's budget deficit was 1.3% of GDP in 1995/6, lower than in most advanced industrialized economies, and the target for this year is one percent, ministers said.

Ports and Railways Authority

TENDER No. 8200/001

1. The Ports and Railways Authority - Israel (P.R.A.) wishes to obtain quotations, in accordance with the International Agreement on Government Procurement Procedure GATT, for the supply of the following equipment:

Up to 20 Units of Second Hand Ballast Bogle Hopper Wagons for the Transport of Ballast, Sand and other Material of Gravel Characteristics.

Plus an option for up to additional 20 units in the next two years.

2. Requested delivery date: As soon as possible.

3. Pre-Requisites for Participation in the Tender

As specified in the tender documentation (available, free of charge, upon application by fax).

4. The P.R.A. reserves the right to proceed with or discontinue negotiations with any or all of the selected bidders. Further, the P.R.A. is not obligated to purchase the lowest priced equipment which might be offered by any bidder.

5. Tender documents including technical specification are available upon payment of NIS 585, including VAT, not refundable. All documents and proposals should be submitted in English.

6. The last date to submit the proposals is no later than Nov. 10 1996 at 15.00 hours.

7. The address for the purchase of Tender Documentation and for submitting the proposals is:

Ports and Railways Authority - Israel
Purchasing Division
74, Petach Tikva Rd.
11th Floor, Room 1103
Tel Aviv 61201, Israel
Fax: 972-3-5616027

British government approves Lloyd's recovery plan

LONDON (Reuters) - Lloyd's of London celebrated the successful outcome of its £3.2 billion recovery plan yesterday as chairman David Rowland and Trade Minister Anthony Nelson rang the Lutine bell, the market's traditional way of signaling news - good and bad.

The ceremony in the insurance market's modernist building in London's financial district followed government approval of the recovery plan, which will allow its long-suffering investors to put

behind them their liabilities. Rowland and Nelson together rang the bell, named after an 18th-century French frigate from which it was salvaged, an unprecedented three times.

Hundreds of underwriters and brokers, many of them Names, as investors in Lloyd's are known, hung over balconies in the building to watch, along with corporate employees.

Rowland told the crowd that final approval of the rescue plan, under which Lloyd's will reinsure billions of pounds in past liabilities into a new company, Equitas, was completed just before midnight on Tuesday.

The Lutine bell traditionally is rung once for bad news - such as the loss of a ship at sea - and twice for good news.

Rowland said the first ring yesterday was for sorrow, to mark and remember an episode in Lloyd's history that has caused pain and suffering for many people.

The second strike was for joy, and the unprecedented third ring signaled that the market was now moving into a new phase.

"I hope that no chairman will have to ring the bell three times again."

"The third strike is always to remind us what actually happened and never to forget it."

"We came close to disaster and we should never let it happen again," he said.

The plan won resounding support last week as 91 percent of Names voted to accept a £3.2b. settlement offer from Lloyd's. Government approval was the final hurdle to securing the market's future.

Under the recovery plan, Lloyd's ends years of uncertainty over the scale of massive losses suffered by some investors as a result of unlimited liability to past claims, including those relating to US environmental and asbestos insurance.

D&B warns customers of Salon Tokyo

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE Dun & Bradstreet business-rating company has warned its customers against establishing connections with appliance distributor Salon Tokyo.

In a letter sent to its customers at the end of last week D&B said Salon Tokyo's account at Bank Leumi has been limited for a year, since the end of August.

D&B predicted Salon Tokyo's financial difficulties already eight months ago when it changed its risk rating of connections with the company from "normal" to high risk (rating 4).

An announcement of the change in the rating was sent to customers at the end of January 1996.

"There is a problem of financing activities in Salon Tokyo," the announcement said.

Salon Tokyo is a private company owned by the Levian family. Recently, one of the brothers, Moshe Levian, left the company after being convicted of giving bribes to the Income Tax Authority.

The company is engaged in import and marketing of house-

hold electrical appliances. Since 1991, the company has served as General Electric's representative in Israel.

Aharon Levian, general manager of the company, could not be reached for comment.

According to the D&B report, published by the company's business analysis department, Salon Tokyo's suppliers have reported both late payments and checks that bounce.

Other sources consulted with during the preparation of the report said Salon Tokyo suffers from cash-flow problems and one of its suppliers' refusal of credit.

D&B also informed its customers of an NIS1 million lawsuit against Salon Tokyo, which was filed by the Zeller Ebalagon firm in April 1996.

In the suit, Zeller Ebalagon claims it lent credit to Salon Tokyo, which accumulated to NIS990,000 in March 1996. The defendant made a commitment to pay off the debt in 18 payments, but did not fulfill them, according to the suit.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Hapoalim says economy's growth rate recovered in July: The economy's growth pace recovered in July after suffering from a slowdown in the first half of the year, Bank Hapoalim said in its monthly economic report.

The wholesale-prices index rose 2.2 percent in July, exports of goods grew 3.4% in dollar terms and revenue from Value Added-Tax went up 4.8% in the June-July period compared with the April-May, the bank said. There was also a growth in the construction sector, where the volume of cement marketing returned to the same levels as in July 1995.

The economists maintained their previous month's forecast that the inflation rate for the next 12 months, and in 1997, will be 9%. The bank expects the Consumer Price Index for August to be 0.6%, reflecting the rise in public transport costs and a seasonal drop in cost of clothing and shoes.

Galit Lipkis Beck

Telrad Holdings to buy share in parent company Koor: Telrad Holdings, an investment company, announced its intention to purchase shares in Koor Industries, its parent company. The purchase of the shares will mark the first time a subsidiary company has bought its parent company's shares.

Telrad has decided to purchase Koor shares on the secondary market, which it intends to hold for at least three months, the company said in an announcement to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

At the start of the week Telrad made its first purchase. The company, via Koor Investment House, purchased Koor shares at a total worth of NIS2 million.

Telrad was established about two years ago to facilitate investments, participate in some of Telrad's businesses and facilitate raising funds in the public and private capital markets for some of Telrad's business.

The company currently controls Koor Multimedia (60% share), Teleglob (50%), Telrad Telecommunication and Electric Industries (100%), Koor Communication and Security Systems (100%), Gvanim (33%), Anigma (26%), Algorithmic Research (19%), K.M. Fuse Engineering (100%) and Orisol (10%).

Galit Lipkis Beck

Leumi has better rating than Hapoalim, says Lehman Bros.: US investment bank Lehman Brothers has maintained a higher rating for Bank Leumi than for Bank Hapoalim, on the assumption that the former is pursuing a more focused operating strategy, which appears to be paying off in terms of profitability.

Lehman Brothers has retained its 3-Neutral rating for Hapoalim and its 2-Outperform rating for Leumi based on the banks' performance for the first half of the year and expectations for the second half. Commenting on Hapoalim, Lehman Brothers said it has poor operating trends but a strong investment portfolio. "At this point we do not believe the stock is particularly attractive, although longer-term recovery potential suggests that for investors with patience the company could hold some promise," said Lehman in its report.

Lehman Brothers said Leumi's operating performance represent a good performance in a tough environment. It added that Leumi's recent purchase of a further 10% of Africa Israel to help push through its plan for the spin-off of Migdal was costly. "The operation certainly has a cost and a risk to the bank, which while justifiable in the context of likely capital gains, it would have been better to avoid," said Lehman Brothers.

Galit Lipkis Beck

French economy shrinks in second quarter: France's economy shrank 0.4 percent in the second quarter from the first quarter, highlighting the government's difficulties in cutting the budget deficit ahead of European monetary union, data released on Wednesday showed.

National statistics institute INSEE, which revised down first quarter growth to 1.1 percent from 1.2%, said the fall was partly due to a drop in consumer spending and to the fact there were a smaller number of working days in the period.

Reuters

Hilton to sign deal for hotel in Eilat

HAIM SHAPIRO

HILTON International is to sign a management agreement on Sunday with real estate developer Yitzhak Testuva for what is to be the Eilat Queen of Sheba Hilton Hotel, bringing to at least six the number of Hilton hotels planned for Israel by the year 2000.

"I can tell you that we are negotiating for additional hotels," said Hilton Israel public relations director Motto Verses.

The 600-room Hilton Tel Aviv, which is currently the only hotel of the chain in the country, is undergoing a \$35 million renovation project.

Most of the rooms have been refurbished, and the work is beginning on the public areas and restaurants, Verses said.

In December, the 260-room Beersheba Hilton is due to open. The hotel, also constructed by

Testuva, is expected to fill the niche for visiting businessmen and academics in what is seen as a rapidly growing Negev economy.

Next spring, the Jerusalem Hilton on King David Street, with almost 400 rooms is due to open. This hotel is to be strictly upmarket, with large public rooms and several exclusive restaurants, Verses said.

By the end of 1998, the 300-room Hilton Resort Hotel at the Dead Sea is to be opened, while the Eilat facility is scheduled to begin operations in 1999. Verses would not say what other sites were being sought.

He did note, however, that the rapid expansion in Israel was part of the chain's policy to concentrate on the Eastern Mediterranean. Hilton has four hotels in Sinai - two in Sharm e-Sheikh, one at Taba and one in Nuweiba. It is also building hotels in Beirut and Amman.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patrah (foreign currency deposit rates) (29.7.96)

Currency (deposit for):	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	4.575	5.375
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.125
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.750	1.875	2.250
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	1.000	1.125	1.500
Yen (10 million yen)	-	-	-

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (4.9.96)

CURRENCY	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	3.5120	3.5987	3.5120	3.5987	3.5423
U.S. dollar	3.1198	3.1702	3.09	3.22	3.1470
German mark	2.1012	2.1981	2.06	2.17	2.1190
French franc	4.8986	4.9854	4.90	5.04	4.9273
Japanese yen (100)	0.6132	0.6221	0.60	0.64	0.6185
Dutch guilder	2.8643	2.9105	2.81	2.96	2.8856
Swiss franc	1.8746	1.9048	1.84	1.94	1.8902
Swedish krona	2.5820	2.6227	2.53	2.67	2.6036
Norwegian krona	0.4880	0.4929	0.46	0.49	0.4786
Danish krona	0.5439	0.5527	0.53	0.57	0.5485
Finnish mark	0.8928	0.9073	0.88	0.92	0.8996
Canadian dollar	2.2770	2.3138	2.23	2.35	2.2972
Australian dollar	2.4720	2.5119	2.42	2.55	2.4935
S. African rand	0.6954	0.7067	0.68	0.71	0.6987
Belgian franc (10)	1.0189	1.0384	1.00	1.03	1.0111
Austrian schilling (10)	2.9853	3.0335	2.93	3.03	3.0111
Italian lire (1000)	2.0590	2.0823	2.02	2.10	2.0776
Jordanian dinar	4.3400	4.8400	4.34	4.84	4.8215
Egyptian pound	0.8900	0.9500	0.89	0.96	0.9620
ECU	3.9533	4.0273	3.93	4.04	3.9970
Irish punt	5.0612	5.1429	4.97	5.22	5.1013
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4836	2.5237	2.44	2.56	2.5050

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

סוכן מן הארץ

Koor leads shares higher

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET



STOCKS rose yesterday, led by Koor Industries Ltd., Bank Hapoalim and Bezeq. At the same time 'people are looking at smaller stocks, seeing more value,' said Ron Weisberg, broker at Israel Brokers and Investments in Tel Aviv.

Euromarkets shrug off Iraqi crisis, Wall St.

LONDON (Reuters) - European financial markets digested news of a second US strike against Iraq yesterday, with most stocks out holding all the day's gains, gold weaker, and the dollar a little mixed.

Wall Street opened weak and stayed down all through the afternoon, but most European stocks managed to keep ahead.

British shares closed firmer but near the day's lows. The FTSE 100 had been buoyed by New York's reversal from slump to 30-point gain on Tuesday, and took the Dow's opening falls calmly, trading around 20 points ahead, not far from their best 25-point gain.

It closed up 16.8 points at 3,872.7, as FTSE gains out-weighted decliners by three-and-a-half times.

The Iraqi situation persists but it was last night's turnaround on Wall Street which impacted upon us today," said one head of UK equity sales.

An agreed £264 million bid by food distributor Booker for food wholesaler Nurdin & Peacock also helped sentiment, sending the blue chip FTSE up 25 points at one stage.

Traders said the London market was somewhat subdued because of a monetary meeting by the Governor of the Bank of England Eddie George and Finance Minister Kenneth Clarke.

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הדגה מן האוכל

Key Representative Rates table with columns for currency, rate, and change.

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TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading

Multi-sided trading table with columns for stock name, price, change, and volume.

Two-sided trading

Two-sided trading table with columns for stock name, price, change, and volume.

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table of international stock prices with columns for stock name, price, change, and volume.

SS BRIEFS

with rate recovered in July... and revenue from Value Added Tax...

their previous month's forecast... and in July, will be...

two years ago to facilitate... and in July, will be...

sign deal in Eilat

sign deal in Eilat

sign deal in Eilat

sign deal in Eilat

sign deal in Eilat

sign deal in Eilat

High Court holds firm on Bar-Ilan injunction

Miller: I'll go to the Zameret Committee

THE High Court of Justice yesterday refused to revoke an injunction forbidding the closure of Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan on Shabbat.

It was ruling on a request by Jerusalem city councilman Haim Miller (United Torah Judaism) and nine area synagogues.

Miller's attorney, Yitzhak Miron, argued that the original purpose of the injunction was to maintain the status quo while a public commission considered the issue, in hopes it could achieve a broad social consensus.

However, Miron said, the negative reactions to the composition of the Zameret Committee from both secular and religious activists make it clear it will not succeed in reaching any consensus, so there is no longer any point to the injunction.

If the court would not revoke the injunction entirely, he continued, it should at least suspend it for the upcoming holiday season, as the local synagogues attract an espe-

EVELYN GORDON

cially high number of worshippers at this time, including many from outside the neighborhood.

However, Miller's request was opposed not only by the three original petitioners - secular activists who object to any closure of the road - but also by the state and by the city of Jerusalem, both of which favor a partial closure in principle. Government attorney Osnat Mandel and city attorney Asa Eliav both explained that the court had originally said it would reconsider the injunction only if circumstances changed - and so far, they have not. The Zameret Committee should at least be allowed to begin its work before considering any change in the injunction, they argued.

Justices Aharon Barak, Theodor Orr, and Dorit Beinisch agreed with this position.

"There has been no change in circumstances since the injunction was issued," they wrote in their

decision.

Furthermore, they said, there is "no basis" for Miller's contention that both secular and religious are already disillusioned with the Zameret Committee. The angry statements quoted in the press, said Orr, are as likely to be pressure tactics as real expressions of disappointment.

After the hearing, Miller said he would ask the Zameret Committee itself to request a suspension of the injunction during the holiday period, since the court indicated that it might give more weight to a request from the committee.

"There is no doubt that for a Jew, the High Holy Days are a change [to circumstances]," he said.

Miller also rejected charges by city councilman Oman Yekutieli (Meretz) that his request was hypocritical, since he does not acknowledge the court's authority.

"The fact that I came here shows that I do accept the High Court's authority," he said.



Thousands of haredim take part in the funeral procession for Rabbi Moshe Arye Freund in Jerusalem yesterday. (Brian Hecker)

Satmar leader Freund dies at 94

THOUSANDS of haredim participated in yesterday's funeral of Rabbi Moshe Arye Freund, 94, a Jerusalem leader of the Satmar Hassidim and head of the rabbinical court of the Eda Haredit.

HAIM SHAPIRO

Olives. Among the mourners were Hassidim who had flown in specially from New York, including two sons of the Satmar rebbe.

Freund, who was born in Hungary, was the head of the Satmar Yeshiva in Jerusalem for

many years. He participated in many protests initiated by the Eda Haredit, including those on Rehov Bar-Ilan a few weeks ago.

Freund lost his first wife and eight children in the Holocaust. He remarried twice after coming to Israel and is survived by his third wife.

Four held for planning bombing in Jaffa

FOUR men were remanded by the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday for allegedly plotting to bomb property in Jaffa which they claim was stolen from the Wakf and is located on Moslem holy sites.

RAINE MARCUS

Around two weeks ago, acting on tips, police searched a Jaffa garage and found 10 firebombs, allegedly to be used in attacks on property. On August 30, police arrested and questioned the men.

Police also arrested three men from Gaza employed at the garage, who have since been released.

The investigation revealed that the men planned to bomb factories, stores and other places in Jaffa which they believe are situated on Moslem holy sites.

Two weeks ago, police warned the manager of a branch of Keter Plastics, situated on Jaffa's busy Sherot Yerushalayim, that they had heard of plots to damage the store.

Manager Ofer Halfon said that a

"massive disaster could have occurred" if firebombs were hurled at his store.

"Mostly Israeli Arabs could have been hurt, and not Jews," Halfon said. "And anyway, we are not situated on the site of a mosque. The mosque is still owned by the Wakf."

Jaffa's Wakf leader, Joseph Raifan, condemned all violent activities.

"There are legal methods which may be used to protest against what may be deemed as irregularities," he said. "People can demonstrate if they feel certain activities are illegal or unjust and there is no need to resort to violence."

Raifan said he urged all Moslems to use "only legal means."

lim contributed to this report.

Parents of 1993 'friendly-fire' victim demand investigation

AVINOAM and Ruth Mor-Haim, whose son Dvir was killed in Lebanon in a "friendly-fire" incident in 1993, petitioned the High Court of Justice yesterday to demand an investigation of the circumstances which led to Dvir's death.

Dvir and three other soldiers were killed when two IDF forces accidentally fired on each other. At the time, the army promised a thorough investigation, and it did set up an investigatory committee, which eventually issued a report. However, the Mor-Haims charged that this committee did only a cursory job, and therefore did not fulfill the army's legal obligation to investigate every fatal accident.

EVELYN GORDON

The investigatory committee's conclusions do not relate to many aspects that were relevant to the occurrence of the disaster," wrote Col. (res.) Moshe Givati, whom the Mor-Haims had asked for a professional assessment of the report.

One of the most disturbing aspects of the committee's work, the petition said, is that it issued two reports - one official and

one secret - and parts of the secret report contradicted what was in the official report.

The Mor-Haims stressed that their petition was not aimed at prompting criminal proceedings. However, they said, it is very important that the tragedy be thoroughly investigated, so that the army can learn from its mistakes and

avoid a repetition. The Mor-Haims also asked that the army be forced to give them all the material, including testimony, collected by the official investigatory team. They have been negotiating with the army on this issue for more than three years now, the petition said, but have still not received a definitive answer.

Court to rule on dismissal of religious principal for alleged affair

BATSHEVA TSUR

THE Tel Aviv Labor Court is due to rule today on the dismissal of a woman school principal in the state religious system, on the grounds that her behavior was "immoral."

The principal, who runs an elementary school in the Sharon region, was fired from her position during the last week of August after her husband, from whom she is in the process of getting divorced, reported to the state-religious schools council and the Education Ministry that she had had an extramarital affair.

The husband brought a recording to the ministry in which the principal purportedly had a conversation revealing her affair. He then reportedly asked that she be dismissed from her post because of this. The principal turned to Na'amnat's legal division for help and the issue was taken to the labor court.

Na'amnat petitioned against the ministry and the council on her behalf, noting that the principal had not even been asked for her side of the story when the decision to dismiss her was made.

The court issued a temporary injunction, just before the school year began, reinstating her in her position, Na'amnat chairman Ofra Friedman said yesterday.

Friedman said the pupils' parents are backing the principal and had threatened to keep the children at home if she were not reinstated.

The principal was not available for comment. Na'amnat took up the matter since the organization believes there is no connection between a person's personal affairs and professional life, Friedman said. This is clearly discrimination against a woman, as similar action is not taken against male educators because of their private lives, she said.

Sakhnin school strike continues

DAVID RUDGE

THE strike at an elementary school in Sakhnin in the Galilee, which has kept 560 children at home since the start of the school year, is continuing, despite promises by the Education Ministry to fund the construction of a new building.

Sakhnin Mayor Mohammed Ghanayim said the school's parents committee wanted written confirmation of the ministry's intentions.

The committee, in conjunction with the municipality, called the strike to press for the replacement of the existing school building - a prefabricated hut composed in part of asbestos.

Ghanayim said asbestos is a cancer-causing substance and that the existing building constitutes a health hazard to the pupils and their teachers.

Education Ministry officials spoke with Ghanayim earlier this week and promised that funds would be made available in the

1997 budget for the construction of a new building.

"If this is the case, then the parents are demanding that they have this in writing, so that the municipality can issue a tender for the work to start in January next year, so the new school can be ready for September 1997," said Ghanayim.

"The problem is that the ministry is not prepared to put this in writing, and there is concern that the work might not get under way until the end of 1997, if then, which would mean another two years of hardship for the children."

"I still hope to receive some sort of written confirmation from the ministry that will convince the parents and at least give them hope that next year the situation will be different. Until that is received, however, the parents committee is adamant that the strike will continue," Ghanayim added.

Efforts made to defuse hospital nurses strike

HEALTH Minister Tzahi Hanegbi and Finance Minister Dan Meridor will meet this morning to discuss a strike by public hospital nurses scheduled to begin on Sunday.

The union of hospital nurses met in emergency session yesterday and decided to strike on Sunday against all hospitals owned by the government, Kupat Holim Clalit, and voluntary organizations. They accuse the Health Ministry of failing to meet its obligations involving staffing levels that "would allow nurses to provide patients with the necessary treatment."

Union head Ilana Cohen said that she and her colleagues have long been warning about the shortage of nurses and the deteriorating condition of hospital departments, especially internal medicine departments, which treat mostly elderly, chronically ill patients.

In an urgent letter she sent to hospital managements, she said that the strike would cause the shutdown of all outpatient clinics, day hospitals, diagnostic institutes, and other ambulatory ser-

vices. Operating rooms will work on a reduced duty roster. Nurses in wards, emergency rooms, and intensive care units will observe a reduced night schedule.

The following departments will function, but on a reduced schedule: fertility units, obstetrics, neonatal, oncology, and dialysis.

Cohen blamed the Health Ministry for "failing to understand that observing proper staffing levels for nurses is of primary importance." She reminded Hanegbi that in the 1980s, nurses went out on a prolonged strike (including a hunger strike by union leaders) over this same issue. Judy Stegel

WEATHER

Galilee 17-23
Haifa 24-32
Tiberias 24-35
Afula 23-34
Bersama 19-32
Tel Aviv 24-31
Jerusalem 17-31
Beer Sheva 19-34
Dead Sea 25-40

Forecast: Clear to partly cloudy. Slight rise in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HI	WIND	CLD
Amsterdam	10	16	10	partly
Berlin	10	16	10	partly
Buenos Aires	22	27	10	partly
Calcutta	22	27	10	partly
Chicago	18	21	10	partly
Copenhagen	13	18	10	partly
Hankou	12	18	10	partly
Hong Kong	26	31	10	partly
London	10	16	10	partly
Los Angeles	18	24	10	partly
Madrid	13	18	10	partly
Moscow	10	16	10	partly
New York	24	29	10	partly
Paris	14	19	10	partly
Stockholm	10	16	10	partly
Tokyo	22	27	10	partly
Yokohama	22	27	10	partly
Zurich	10	16	10	partly

Winning cards
In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the queen of spades, the jack of hearts, the king of diamonds, and the eight of clubs.

Prisoner fails in escape attempt

RAINE MARCUS

AN escape attempt from Beersheba's Ohali Kedar Prison failed yesterday, when the prisoner, Haniel Koren, fell from an electronic fence into a pack of patrol dogs.

Koren is serving a 4 1/2-year sentence for opening fire inside St. Anthony's Church in Jaffa in May 1995. He caused damage to the church but did not hurt anyone. He told police his motives were ideological.

He was being held in a wing for religiously observant prisoners; the doors inside the wing are not locked. To escape, he first had to climb over a fence, and then scale another electronically protected fence before reaching the outside wall.

Koren succeeded in climbing over the unprotected fence, but when he reached the electronic fence, he activated the alarm system. Koren climbed over the fence, and fell into a pack of dogs kept there at bay and captured Koren.

Koren was put in solitary confinement. Prisons Service spokesman Moshe Malul said he will not be returned to his previous wing, but will be kept in a secure cell, where chances of escape are minimal.

Religious Affairs Ministry opposes moving Chief Rabbinate

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE chief rabbis' plans to leave their offices in Jerusalem's Hechal Shlomo may be halted, if the two deputy religious affairs ministers have anything to say about it.

The deputy ministers, Rabbi Aryeh Gamliel of Shas and Yigal Bibi of the National Religious Party, issued a joint statement yesterday calling on the Chief Rabbinate to reconsider its decision to leave Hechal Shlomo for a government office building.

The building, erected in the 1950s with funds donated for the purpose by the late Sir Isaac Wolfson, is administered by a non-profit association. The Chief Rabbinate had complained that the rent is too high and that there is not enough working space.

However, the deputy ministers said yesterday that even if the rent

is high, the stature of the chief rabbis would be lowered if they sat in an ordinary office building. They said that it was important to build a new building for the chief rabbis, similar to that of the Supreme Court, but that until then, the rabbis should not leave Hechal Shlomo.

"Budgetary concerns are important, but so is the honor of the rabbis. We should not lower them to the level of government clerks," Religious Affairs Ministry spokesman Yair Wolf said.

Chief Rabbinate spokesman Daniel Aviv said that the chief rabbis were surprised by the ministry's announcement. If the deputy ministers were concerned with the issue, he said, they should have first discussed it with the rabbis and the director-general of the Chief Rabbinate.

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Saturday Night, September 7, 1996, at 7 p.m. TORCHLIGHT MARCH

from Menora Square in Jerusalem to the Prime Minister's Residence

- Against the renewal of settlement construction
- Against holding on to Hebron
- Against violating agreements
- Against returning to the past

The torches will be lit after 7:30

PEACE NOW

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